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Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

CLIFTON.—The Orpheus Glee Society's annual concert was well attended. It opened with T. Cooke's favorite glee, "Strike the lyre;" followed by several others by Bishop and Horsley, interspersed with some German favorites.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—The Amateur Choral Society performed a varied and well chosen selection of sacred and secular music, on the 19th February. The performance of that much admired glee, by W. Jackson, "The sisters of the sea," received the hearty plaudits of the audience.

STOCKPORT.—A fourth grand concert took place on the 19th February, the proceeds of which were to be given to the Stockport Infirmary.

CHOIR BENEVOLENT FUND.—The Provost of Eton has granted the use of the College chapel for a full choral service on the 17th April. It is anticipated that at least 80 voices will muster on the occasion. Application for tickets should be made to Mr. Geo. Gray, the secretary, 12, Denbigh-place, Pimlico.

LICHFIELD.—The Amateur Musical Society brought their fourth season to a successful termination on the 19th February.

CATHEDRAL ORGANISTS AND CHOIRS.—A deputation from the Associated Organists, consisting of Mr. Amott (Gloucester), Mr. Corfe (Bristol), Dr. Corfe (Oxford), Dr. Elvey (Windsor), Mr. Propert (St. David's), Mr. Townshend Smith, hon. sec. of the Association (Hereford), Mr. Turle (Westminster), and Dr. Wesley (Winchester), had an interview, on 7th March, with the Cathedral Commissioners, at Spring Gardens, on the subject of the inadequate stipends paid to organists and cathedral choirs.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On the 28th February, the members and subscribers to the Sacred Harmonic and Choral Society, amounting to upwards of 400 ladies and gentlemen, assembled for the purpose of presenting Dr. Ions, the conductor of the society, with a testimonial of respect, consisting of a splendid baton, a silver cream jug and sugar basin, together with an elegantly-bound score copy of the Oratorio of *Elijah*. On the baton and on the back of the book was the following inscription:—

"Presented by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Sacred and Harmonic Society to Dr. Ions, as a token of their gratitude to him as conductor, their admiration of his ability as a musician—urbanity as a gentleman—and his virtues as a man and a fellow-citizen."

The mayor of Gateshead presided; and, in the course of his agreeable speeches, announced that a meeting was shortly to be held to promote the building of a sufficiently spacious hall, for the growing musical wants of Newcastle, which musical taste may be in a great measure attributed to the zealous exertions of Dr. Ions.

CROSBY HALL.—The City Musical Union repeated Mr. Lutz's new Oratorio of *Jacob*, on 27th February, at the request of the subscribers and members.

MENDELSSOHN'S "ST. PAUL" has been three times repeated in London, at short intervals; twice at the Sacred Harmonic Society, and once at St. Martin's Hall, by Mr. Hullah's pupils.

THE LIVERPOOL GLEE AND MADRIGAL UNION gave a grand concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music on the 7th March. Mr. Joseph Skeaf, jun., conducted.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—It is reported that the season will commence at Covent Garden Theatre, about the second week in April.

THE NEW ORGAN, built for Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, was exhibited at the factory of Messrs. Gray and Davison, previously to its being sent from London. Its powers were displayed on separate evenings, by Mr. George Cooper and Mr. W. T. Best.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC CONCERTS.—Of these opportunities for the exhibition of the students' progress, there will be two in the present season, held at Tenterden Street.

DRURY LANE.—At this theatre, the opera of *L'Etoile du Nord* was produced, as previously announced in our pages [*ante p.* 216]. Whether the rest of the plan then intended will be carried out, remains to be proved; as no rumour of any British composer's opera having been proposed or accepted, has yet transpired.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION is the name given to a new project, having for its directors, Mr. Benedict and Mr. Henry Smart; and for its object, "the realization of the beautiful and extraordinary effects derivable from large bodies of voices under a state of discipline." The terms of subscription are fixed at the low price of 80s. for 15 meetings.

BERWICK.—On 22nd Feb., a vocal concert of Sacred Music was given by the class of juveniles (numbering from 30 to 40) practising under the instruction of Mr. Patterson.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—The annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* will take place in Exeter Hall on the 23rd April. Every subscriber of one guinea to this excellent charity, is entitled to two tickets for the oratorio, at which the best artists usually give their services.

MADAME GRISI and SIGNOR MARIO have returned to England from their late American tour. They arrived in London on the 6th March.

MR. FARQUHARSON SMITH gave a concert to the inhabitants of Kennington, at the Old Assembly Rooms, which were crowded in every part.

CAMBERWELL.—The concerts at the Institution here are usually of a high order. Classical music forms a prominent feature in the programme, and the best artists are secured to give it due effect [*see ante page* 263]. On 6th March, Messieurs Sainton and Piatti were present, in addition to the conductor and pianist, Herr Pauer: the vocalists were Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Bodda. The lady sang four pieces—namely, Mozart's "Deh vieni ah non tardare" (*Figaro*), Verdi's "Ernani involermi," Cagnone's "Ah se giungo," and "Oh cam ye by Athol." Madame Clara Novello will sing at Camberwell again on 10th April.

EXETER HALL.—The Sacred Harmonic Society (conductor, Mr. Costa) give Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* (Lobgesang), and Mozart's *Requiem*, on the 23rd April. Madame Clara Novello, Mrs. Locke, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss, are the vocalists.

"THE ONLY" EDITION."

THESE words are advertised with several works intended to compete with NOVELLO's cheap editions. The statement appears to be at variance with truth, until careful reading shows that the words are an ellipsis for, the "only" [*dear*] edition, or some such peculiarity; but there is one meaning the Public may surely depend upon when "only" is used, viz.: that there is a cheap edition of NOVELLO's, which it behoves them to see before purchasing any other.

It is probable, that shortly ALBRECHTSBERGER's THEORETICAL WORKS will be advertised as the "only" edition, in two volumes, price 42s., although it may not be stated that it is the only English edition in which the examples are inconveniently separated from the letter-press; but the student (having learnt the meaning of "only") should look out for NOVELLO's compact edition, with the examples properly inserted in the text, at 3s. 6d. per volume, as it is now ready, in the LIBRARY for the diffusion of MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE.

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